



From the Financial Listening Posts of Europe

German Trade Active Despite Mark's Decline

Report of Prussian Chamber of Commerce for September Indicates No Check in the Industrial Boom

Commercial Failures Few

Increase in Orders Is Seen as Soon as Currency Gets Some Degree of Stability

Special Cable to The Tribune
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BERLIN, Oct. 8.—The close of the week found the mark at the point predicted in these dispatches—more than 1,000 to the dollar. While this indicates the aggravation of Germany's financial situation, it is in no way surprising since the decline of the mark to a point even far below the present standing is a foregone conclusion in the face of Germany's efforts to obtain any fundamental readjustment of her reparations obligations, and the incessant stream of paper money from the Reichsbank's printing presses.

But there is a remarkable paradox which appears to be unprecedented in the history of industrial countries—the progressive aggravation of the financial situation has in no way reflected in business and commercial activities as shown in official reports issued last week.

The September report of the Prussian Chamber of Commerce, one of the most authoritative economic indices, shows almost no indication of the general expected evaporation of the financial boom which has been in progress during the last year. The devaluation of the mark has had the consequent increasing difficulties of centralizing business continue to be serious embarrassments to trade and industry, but so far they have failed to provoke any appreciable restriction or suspension of production.

Some industries complain that they are hampered by lack of fuel, insufficiency of railway rolling stock and shortage of skilled labor. Some reductions of activity are reported in the clothing industries, but not so far as to prevent the report from characterizing general business conditions as "good."

The decline in orders is admitted by the chamber's report to furnish no criterion for the future and may be a purely temporary development due to fluctuations in exchange. An increase in orders, the chamber says, is likely to follow as soon as the mark reaches some measure of stability, or the practice of quoting and involving foreign currencies becomes more general, giving dealers a firmer basis for figuring contracts and deliveries.

For the first time in a year the report on the labor market shows an increase in unemployment, but it is almost significant. Although September returns will probably prove less satisfactory, they are not expected to show any alarming turn for the worse.

The German government is hopelessly bankrupt, but German business appears to be more solvent than ever.

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Curb Dealings For the Week

Industrials

Sales. Open. High. Low. Last.

18800 *Acme Coal. 23 26 25 28

18800 *Acme Pack. 29 32 30 38

18800 Alum. Mts. 22 23 22 25

18800 Am. Leather. 102 102 102 102

18800 Am. P. 48 48 47 47

18800 Candy. 86 85 85 85

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